

TEXT OF TELEGRAM BOSEUL 006603

ADP897

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-14 ACDA-12 SY-05 SYE-00
CCO-00 /081 W

O 230903Z MAY 80
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6542

SEOUL 06603

E.O. 120554 ZDS-1 5/23/90 (GLEYSTEN, W.H.) OR-M
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KS, US
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ROK DOMESTIC REACTION TO U.S.
POSITION

REF: STATE 124359

1. [REDACTED]
2. WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THE POSITION BEING TAKEN BY THE U.S. IN THE CURRENT KOREAN SITUATION CAN DEVELOP LOCAL ANTI-U.S. REACTION IN SOME QUARTERS. SPECIFICALLY, THE U.S. APPROVAL FOR THE MOVEMENT OF CERTAIN TROOP ELEMENTS TO MAINTAIN PUBLIC ORDER MAY BE USED IN A VERY CRITICAL MANNER. SUCH CRITICISM IS HEIGHTENED BY FRUSTRATION OVER AN INABILITY TO RESOLVE CURRENT PROBLEMS IN A TOTALLY ACCEPTABLE MANNER AND THE U.S. IS A CONVENIENT SCAPEGOAT AGAINST WHICH TO UNLEASH THESE EMOTIONS.

3. AS A RESULT OF OUR AWARENESS OF THE ABOVE, ALL MISSION PERSONNEL AND U.S. MILITARY IN KOREA ARE BEING URGED TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN THEIR COMMENTS ON LOCAL EVENTS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION, THEY WILL USE THE PUBLIC STATEMENT CONTAINED REFTEL AND WILL REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING IN A DISSECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND

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WRONGS OF THE KOREAN SITUATION. WHILE WE WILL NOT DENY U.S. APPROVAL OF TROOP MOVEMENTS AND WILL AFFIRM OUR BELIEF THAT THE PRIMARY TASK AT PRESENT IS THE RESTORATION OF LAW AND ORDER, WE WILL NOT ENGAGE IN PROLONGED DEBATE OF THESE ACTIONS.

4. EMBASSY HOPES THAT IN ANY FORMAL COMMENT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS WILL ALSO ADOPT A CAUTIOUS POSITION, ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED ABOVE. FOR EXAMPLE, DOD SPOKESMAN'S

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

Date: 9/13/93

☒ RELEASE

☒ DECLASSIFY

MR Cases Only:

☐ EXCISE

☐ DECLASSIFY

EO Citations

☐ DENY

IN PART

☐ DELETE Non-Responsive Info

FOIA Exemptions

PA Exemptions

TS authority to.

☐ CLASSIFY as

☐ S or ☐ C OADR

☐ DOWNGRADE TS to ☐ S or ☐ C OADR

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ON-THE-RECORD STATEMENT THAT U.S. HAD CHOPPED FORCES FOR KWANGJU, WHICH WAS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED IN MORNING PRESS, COULD EXACERBATE OUR PROBLEMS IN KWANGJU. INFORMAL, UNAUTHORIZED EXPLANATIONS POSE FAR LESS OF A PROBLEM, AND ARE OFTEN UNAVOIDABLE. WE HOPE WE CAN MAINTAIN A LOW-KEY POSTURE IN THE IMMEDIATE DAYS AHEAD TO HELP CONTAIN POSSIBLE ANTI-AMERICAN REACTIONS. GLEYSTEEN

NNN

[illegible]

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